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THIRD RUSSIAN DOUMA CONTAINS 'GERM OF SUCCESS'

The third duma of Russia is now in session, with some prospects of usefulness, although there are two elements in its membership which desire it to fail, as its predecessors have done, and will do everything in their power to defeat its purpose, says William E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record. They are the absolute monarchists, who number 125, or nearly one-half of the whole, and the radicals and social revolutionists, who number 28. Combined they have a majority of two in the new parliament.

Opposed to them are the Octoberists and constitutional democrats, 219 in number, who will support the administration of Mr. Stolypin, the prime minister, and assist him to carry out his reforms. It is believed, however, that the majority of the opposition will be considerably reduced through the influence of the czar upon the reactionaries and extreme conservatives, because he is undoubtedly in sympathy with Stolypin and sincerely anxious for the success of parliamentary government in the empire. He has yielded the autocracy and he cannot recover it.

He must realize that the preservation of the dynasty and the prospects of his son and heir depend upon his consistency in carrying out the promises he has made to his people. He must also realize that Russia cannot take any backward steps without fatal consequences to him and the imperial house.

The movement to modernize Russia has not yet been successful, but it has made some progress and has gained an impetus which cannot be resisted. The parliament has come to stay and the reactionaries cannot prevent it. The most powerful opponent of progress, the old procurator of the holy synod, is dead; most of the grand dukes accept the situation; the coming generation are all in favor of progress, and public opinion, which has never existed in Russia until recently, is developing every day in favor of a thorough reform of the administration and a representative parliament. The present parliament represents that sentiment more largely than the two previous assemblies. It is composed of what the Russians call "intellectuals" instead of "illiterates," and is expected to do some practical work rather than waste its time in bombastic oratory and attacks upon the minister. The czar, under these circumstances, cannot fail to throw his powerful influence in favor of his own administration, and may therefore bring to the support of the ministry at least one-third and perhaps one-half of the absoluteists and persuade them to work in harmony with the moderates, as the combination of the Octoberists and constitutional democrats is called.

Furthermore, it seems scarcely possible that the absoluteists who are pledged to restore the autocracy would combine for any purpose with the social revolutionists, who are pledged to destroy it and found a socialistic republic upon its ruins.

A few days before the meeting of the duma on Nov. 14, caucuses were held by the several parties. The constitutional democrats and the Octoberists agreed to co-operate and support the Stolypin ministry. The absoluteists declared that their duty "was not to promote the labors of the duma, but the destruction of that body."

The best-informed newspaper correspondents in St. Petersburg promise unexpected developments, and assert that a considerable number of the absoluteists are moderates in disguise who will disclose their real sentiments whenever it is necessary.

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for the success of the Stolypin programme of reform.

To make the situation more clear, perhaps, it is well to explain briefly the policies of the several parties:

The absoluteists, or monarchists, advocate a restoration of the absolute despotism which was relinquished by the czar in October, 1905, under pressure from the public. They are composed mostly of nobles, large land owners, ex-officials, officers of the army and priests of the orthodox Greek church.

The Octoberists are representatives of the business and professional classes, bankers, merchants, lawyers, engineers and manufacturers, land owners—all men of practical ideas and progressive tendencies, who support the czar and the government, but recognize that the existing methods of administration are antiquated and unsuitable to the present age. They insist upon strict adherence to the pledges given by the czar to his subjects in the celebrated manifesto of October, 1905, in which he promised them a constitution and parliament. That is the chief plank in their platform, and gives the party its name. Mr. Stolypin, the present prime minister, is an Octoberist, and was one of the principal leaders of that party when he was appointed as the head of the ministry.

The constitutional democrats favor everything that has been advocated by the Octoberists, but go still farther and insist that the ministry shall be responsible to the parliament instead of to the czar; that the principal officials of the government shall be confirmed by that body. They advocate a liberal monarchy similar to that of Great Britain.

The social revolutionists are seeking destruction of the present government, the establishment of a republic upon socialistic ideas, the abolition of the nobility and the imperial family, the suppression of the church, the confiscation of the large estates and their distribution among the peasants, and other radical doctrines.

There were 150 social revolutionists in the first duma, and 125 in the second duma. There are only 25 in this, and instead of 70 peasants, there are now only 10. The present assembly is not so picturesque in appearance as the first and second. The greater part of the members wear silk hats and frock coats, and fashionable ties, instead of the sheepskin tunics and high boots of workingmen.

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KING OSCAR II. DIES

(Continued from page one.)

the royal family and cabinet ministers withdrew and the physicians left their patient in the hands of the nurses soon after midnight. Within an hour or two the doctors were called again to the sick room and administered further stimulants, but at 5:15 the gentlemen of the king's court were aroused and ordered to appear at once in the bed-chamber. The premier and foreign minister and highest court officials, together with all the members of the king's family assembled there and remained at his side until the end came.

In the palace court yard stood a crowd of school boys, King Oscar's most devoted friends. Here they had stood for hours, watching the palace flagstaff. There, also gathered many old men and women in rags, such as the king had always stopped to comfort with mild words and generous aims. Suddenly the flag dropped to half mast and a wall of misery and sorrow arose.

In a room near the death chamber, the first marshal of the court read to the cabinet a draft of the new king's proclamation to the Swedish people. In the death chamber knelt the heartbroken queen and gathered about her were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, praying for strength to bear their affliction. Church bells began to toll and minute guns boomed. All Sweden mourns its great loss.

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon King Gustave took the oath of office before the cabinet and court assembled in the grand gallery. The oath was administered by Minister Lindman. Then the princes of blood swore allegiance to the king, who embraced and kissed them, giving his favorite brother, the giant, Carl, a hearty slap on the back.

This ceremony being concluded, the cabinet resigned, but the king begged the ministers to remain at their posts and assist him as they had so ably assisted his father. They acceded to his request and took the oath of office. King Gustave read his motto, "With the people for the fatherland." After the officers of the army and navy and civil officials had taken the oath, a cabinet meeting was held behind closed doors.

There was a memorial service an hour later in the palace chapel, which was attended by the whole royal family with the exception of the Queen Sophia and the new queen, until now the Crown Princess Victoria, who will

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No national mourning will be proclaimed. Tonight all theaters will open again with the exception of the Royal Opera.

Gustave V., has published a proclamation addressed to the administration and ecclesiastical authorities, informing them of his accession to the throne and a further proclamation addressed to the people of Sweden in which he refers in eulogistic term to the late sovereign.

The proclamation refers briefly to the material progress of Sweden under Oscar's reign, and then Gustave addressed himself personally to the people, saying among other things:

"Our aim will always be to unite our people in common work for the fatherland. Only when the Swedish nation, as a whole, recognizes its responsibility towards the fatherland can success be attained."

King Oscar had been in failing health for several years and frequently was unable to perform his duties.

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